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J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

WISCONSIN FARM BOYS LEARN EARLY TO HANDLE ANIMALS

When this Brown Swiss heifer grows up, it will give milk that is high in butterfat content, but inferior to other breeds in quantity of yield. In southern Wisconsin's Green County, location of this farm, 53,000 milch cows (mostly Holstein-Friesians) give about 43,000,000 gallons of milk annually. The dairy state celebrates its 100th birthday this year (Bulletin No. 3).

Bulletin No. 1, May 10, 1948

Costa Rican "Ticos" Return to Normal

OFFICIAL settling of Costa Rica's recent political discord promises "peace after the storm." Today's quiet is more in keeping with the tradition of this small Central American republic (map, next page) which normally has the reputation of preferring culture to conflict, teachers to soldiers.

Costa Rica is estimated to spend close to 15 per cent of its national income on education. Schooling, free and compulsory for all Costa Ricans *(Ticos)*, has produced many outstanding literary figures. When the country declared war on Japan, on the heels of the Pearl Harbor attack, the army contained only about 500 soldiers, or less than the number of the nation's teachers.

Moderation Is Theme

Voting, too, is compulsory in both national and local elections. At least it is for men less than 70 years old. Women are not included. An election law of 1946 extended the franchise to all males at the age of twenty, and to married men and teachers after eighteen.

Visitors have long applauded Costa Rica for its democratic institutions and moderate ways. After the overthrow of dictatorship in 1917, most political battles were waged in the newspapers.

Even bullfights in Costa Rica are relatively gentle. At the free-for-all amateur contests, bulls are not injured or killed, and their horns are sawed off to prevent serious accidents to participants.

By far the majority of Costa Rica's three-quarters of a million people live in the central plateau around the capital, San José, (illustration, inside cover). In a country smaller than West Virginia, these perpetually springlike upland valleys form one of the most densely settled rural regions of the Americas. There are concentrated the many small-scale farmers, or "little landers," who make this nation different from the Latin America of big estates and hired labor.

"Planted Sticks Grow"

In spite of its name, which means "rich coast," Costa Rica was never a source of mineral treasure. Though some gold and silver are mined today, its real wealth lies in the soil, in valuable woods, and good grazing ground. The volcanic action which makes light earthquakes common, and occasional eruptions seriously destructive, has resulted in an extremely fertile soil. "Plant a stick," Costa Ricans say, "and it will grow."

Coffee is the leading export product. Its white blossoms, spreading over the hillsides in spring, offer not only scenery but the prospect of national prosperity. Bananas and cacao are other important "money crops," produced chiefly in big United States-owned plantations along the tropical coasts.

To the little landers—who are largely of Spanish descent—words

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LUIS MARDEN

CENTRAL PARK—NOT NEW YORK'S BUT SAN JOSÉ'S: COSTA RICAN MEN AND WOMEN PROMENADE IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS

Three nights a week this youthful parade takes place. The girls, bareheaded but in fur jackets, stroll counterclockwise around the park; the men walk the other way. On Sunday night, most of them go to the movies afterward. People of San José, Costa Rica's capital, are largely of Spanish descent (Bulletin No. 1).

Inner Mongolia Is Asia's "Dust Bowl"

INNER Mongolia, focus of much of the conflict in the regions of northern China, is geographically a buffer land lying in the dry Asian interior between the Gobi Desert and the Great Wall of China. Last year, the proclamation of an autonomous government for Inner Mongolia renewed its age-old condition as a political buffer land between China to the south and Mongol and Russian regions to the north.

In the steppes and semideserts of both Inner and Outer Mongolia, nature makes harsh rules. A meager rainfall dictates the location of the relatively few settlements in these vast "dust-bowl" regions. Many of the "cities" dotting the map's blank spaces, travelers have discovered, exist only as grazing grounds, an oasis, or a lonely monastery.

Chinese Settle Where Farming Is Possible

Lack of trees and fishing waters and still undeveloped mineral resources hold the Mongols to a rigorous and largely nomad life. In the fringe of rolling pastures around the desert's "dead" heart, they move constantly in search of greener grasslands (illustration, next page).

Over the centuries, when grass has been good and crops possible, Chinese colonists have pushed northward into the three provinces of Ningsia, Suiyuan, and Chahar, which make up Inner Mongolia. During such periods of movement, they drove the Mongols before them. In time, successive years of drought brought retreat. The Mongols returned, and sometimes even invaded the more settled regions south of the Great Wall.

In the 1200's, Genghis Khan brought the Mongol tribes under his rule. Led by him and his successors, notably his grandson, Kublai Khan, the Mongols swept out of their desert fastnesses and conquered not only all of China, but most of Asia and much of eastern Europe. Short-lived, the Mongol domain was the greatest land empire the world has ever known.

In modern decades, Chinese settlers have reached ever deeper into Inner Mongolia. Nature, however, still discourages the farmer with sandy soil, extremes of heat and cold, and high winds. Whistling up a breeze is an old superstitious custom still practiced to keep down the voracious flies that harry the animals in summer. In spring and winter, however, no Mongol dares whistle lest it rouse the destructive blasts.

Most of the estimated million inhabitants live by their meager livestock possessions. Their horses and camels, cattle and sheep provide transportation, food, clothing, and shelter.

Lama Priests Influential

Sheep, particularly, are prized because of their mutton, milk, cheese, and butter. Their wool makes felting for nomad tents, their skins are used for clothing, and dung for fuel.

Reaching throughout the land is the power and influence of the feudalistic Lama priesthood, dedicated to a life of perpetual prayer and contemplation. In early boyhood, a large proportion of the male population

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ending in *ico* or *tico*, for "small," seem fascinating. They use these diminutive endings so much that their neighbors finally nicknamed them *Ticos*. Nearly everything is whimsically small to a Tico, from a "little ride" of many miles, to a cheerfully underestimated "little minute."

NOTE: Costa Rica is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of Countries of the Caribbean. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "Land of the Painted Oxcarts," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1946.* (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included on a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.*)

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, March 31, 1947, "Hard-Working Costa Rica Hit by High Prices."

DRAWN BY HERBERT E. EASTWOOD AND IRVIN E. ALLEMAN

THOUGH SMALL, COSTA RICA HAS RUGGED MOUNTAINS, FERTILE PLATEAUS, AND TROPICAL COASTS

Coffee grows and dairy cattle graze in the uplands around San José and Cartago. Bananas, rubber, and cacao thrive on the coastal plains. Beef cattle make Guanacaste the Texas of Costa Rica.

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Bulletin No. 3, May 10, 1948

Wisconsin Celebrates '48 Centennial

FOR the woodsy or indoor type, for historian, businessman, or politician, Wisconsin's 1948 celebration of its first hundred years in the Union dramatizes a Paul Bunyan package of assorted interests and people.

Although May 29, 1848, was the formal date of Wisconsin's admission to statehood, the story of this northern midwest region covers more time before than after the event.

Indian Color Remains

White men opened the first chapter more than 200 years before 1848. In a sense, it was "opened by mistake." For Jean Nicolet, sent exploring in 1634 by Governor Champlain of New France, hoped to find the Orient beyond Lake Huron. So optimistic was Nicolet that he carried a magnificent Chinese robe when he beached his birchbark canoe on the Green Bay shore of what is now Wisconsin.

The descendants of the early Indian inhabitants who disappointed Nicolet are still an important factor in present-day Wisconsin's color and personality. Numerous burial mounds and other evidences of much older civilizations may also be seen by the inquiring centennial visitor at such prehistoric sites as that at Aztalan.

Most of the 11,000 or so remaining Indians are now on reservations. But their settlements and handicrafts form a living link with the past, when all this land of green forests and sky-blue lakes was for them a happy hunting ground.

Beginning with the 17th-century French missionaries and fur traders, the patterns were set for the variety in nationality and industry that marks modern Wisconsin.

After the French and Indian War, the British took over from France, to be succeeded a few decades later by the then fledgling United States, newly independent. It was not until 1836 that Wisconsin Territory was created. As a state, it was the last to be cut from the old Northwest Territory.

Badger State Immigrants Came from Many Countries

Once started, growth came fast. The discovery of valuable lead mines in the 1820's brought a wave of miner-settlers not only from the southern United States, but from as far away as Britain's Cornwall whose miners have been noted since the Bronze Age.

Each succeeding new element, settling in the Badger State, added something different in place names, economic development, and ways of life. Germans, Poles, and Scandinavians were among the leading European colonists. There is still a bit of Iceland on Wisconsin's Washington Island, settled in the 1870's. Around New Glarus, in southern Wisconsin, is a "Little Switzerland" which yodels, raises dairy cattle, makes cheese (illustration, next page), and preserves many customs from the Old World. It was founded three years before the establishment of statehood.

of Inner Mongolia enters the church of this ritualistic Buddhist faith derived from Tibet.

The northern two-thirds of Mongolia, adjoining Siberia, has been set up as the "Mongolian Peoples' Republic" since 1924. Its independence was recognized by China following a Russo-Chinese treaty in 1945. Inner Mongolia was administered as part of northern China until Japan moved in, in the 1930's, from already-occupied Manchuria. Again nominally under Chinese jurisdiction, its status, since the close of World War II, has been cloudy because of the continuing hostilities between Chinese nationalists and communists.

NOTE: Inner Mongolia may be located on the Society's map of China.

For additional information, see "From Mediterranean to Yellow Sea by Motor," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for November, 1932; and "Desert Road to Turkestan," June, 1929.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 19, 1945, "Mixed Nationalities Confuse Inner Mongolia Political Picture."

J. B. SHACKELFORD

ALWAYS ON THE MOVE, MONGOLS DEPEND ON THEIR CAMELS, MOLTING OR NOT

Rarely objects of extreme beauty, camels when molting look ragged and forlorn indeed. But in spite of the fact that their hair is falling out in hunks all over their bodies, they hold their heads high and maintain their camel dignity. The woman on the animal at the right wears the typical arched headdress of nomadic Mongols. In less arid portions of Inner Mongolia, Chinese immigrants farm.

COLOR PICTURES FROM THE *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*

Reliable aids in visual education are the many separate color pages from the National Geographic Magazine. *Subjects covered include the United States, foreign countries, and natural history. 48 sheets for 30¢ and 96 sheets for 50¢. Write for subject list and order blank.*

Bulletin No. 4, May 10, 1948

Zoo and Circus Animals Become Luxury Items

LIKE the housewife watching with alarm the cow disappear over the high-cost-of-living moon, directors of zoos and circuses are bewailing the price of the even rarer beasts which they need to restore their war-depleted collections.

During the war, United States zoos lost an estimated 25 to 30 per cent of their animals. In Europe, bombing, and lack of heat and food accounted for far greater losses.

Australia's unique duck-billed, web-footed, egg-laying platypus was recently marked at $1,600. This fabulous animal, combining the characteristics of bird, beast, and fish, is a very special creature, however. The platypus is one of the two most primitive mammals living, sharing this distinction with the quill-set echidna. Both are natives of Australia. The three platypuses obtained by the New York Zoo in 1947 are believed to be the only ones outside their home continent.

Zoo Supply Business a Fantastic Occupation

The official price on the platypus, moreover, is much lower than quotations on many other animals. A South African baby elephant, for instance, has been offered at $4,000. Even before World War II scattered collections and cut off sources of supply and shipping facilities, an orang-utan sold for $3,000, and a pair of giraffes for $7,000.

To a stay-at-home citizen, the business of collecting and marketing wild animals is an Alice-in-Wonderland affair. And not the least of its oddities is the variation in price. The lion, king of beasts, is comparatively cheap, for example. So is the spectacular but fairly common zebra.

The python is not expensive, up to a point—or, more accurately, a curve. This snake is sold by the foot, at between five and ten dollars for each of the first six feet. But the price skyrockets when an unusually long reptile unwinds.

In 1947, the first place for the most valuable animal in any of the world's zoos went to a six-foot-two, 520-pound gorilla in the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. Its value was estimated at $100,000.

The Stranger the Beast, the Higher the Price

The ordinary lion is cheap—changing hands sometimes for as little as $100—because it breeds well in captivity. Tigers (illustration, next page) born in captivity are also not unusual, but the price may run a little higher than for lions as it is more difficult to raise them. The captive tigress is a poor mother and her neglect throws the responsibility of bringing up the cubs into the trainer's busy hands.

On the other hand, the strange okapi—cousin of the giraffe, and bearing a few of the zebra's stripes—may sell for as much as $15,000. More than $12,000 was once paid for a pair of Indian rhinoceroses in remote Nepal.

Wild-animal collectors and professional dealers travel many thousands of miles for captives, returning with virtual Noah's Ark variety.

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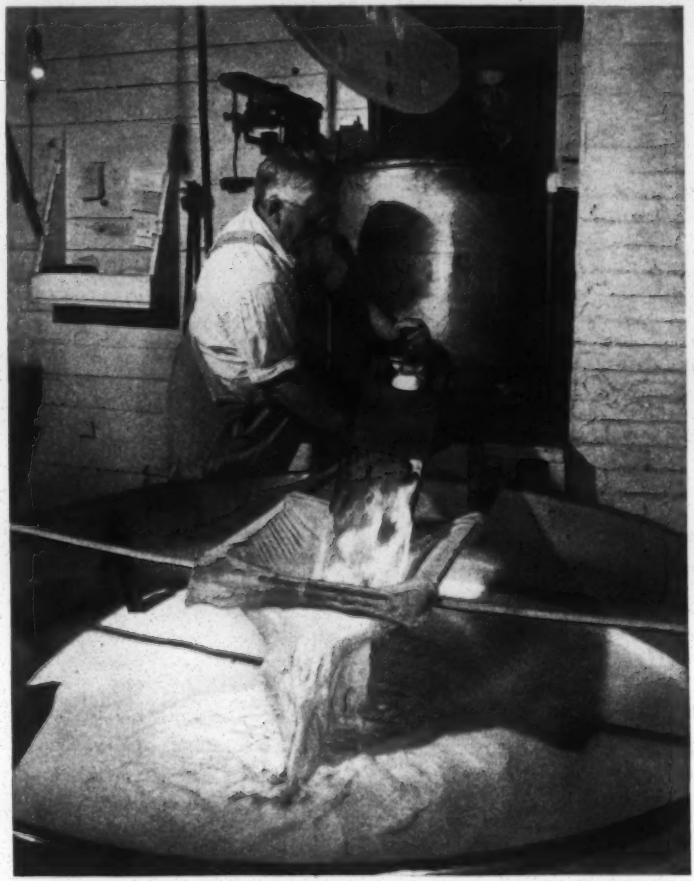
In its everyday life, Wisconsin balances its industrial and farm economies. With many manufacturing centers, led by Milwaukee, it is the nation's Number One dairy state (illustration, cover). It has valuable lake fisheries as well as rich deposits of iron, zinc, and building stone. Always, just beyond the cities and farms, spreads a land of outdoor activities, of fishing, hunting, and recreation.

NOTE: Wisconsin is shown on the Society's map of The United States of America.

For additional information, see "Deep in the Heart of 'Swissconsin'," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1947; and "On Goes Wisconsin," July, 1937.



J. BAYLOR ROBERTS

A SWISS-BORN CHEESE MAKER MAKES SWISS CHEESE IN WISCONSIN

Six neighboring dairymen supply this small one-kettle plant near Mt. Vernon. Often cheese is made twice a day—after each milking. Here fresh milk pours into the kettle. Then it is heated, rennet extract added to make it coagulate, and bacteria culture introduced to cause fermentation and produce the holes, or eyes, that are trademarks for Swiss cheese.

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practice of water throwing had a religious origin.

Bulletin No. 5, May 10, 1948

Appalachian Hikers to Hold June Jamboree

FROM massive Mt. Katahdin in north-central Maine to Mt. Oglethorpe in northern Georgia, the wilderness of the eastern uplands is blooming. Spring holds its sway.

Already, along the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail blazed through 13 states between those two terminal summits, the more earnest hikers are week-ending on shanks' mare. When rhododendrons bloom purple-pink and white in Great Smoky Mountains National Park late in June, they'll be in striding trim for the 11th Appalachian Trail Conference, to be held at Fontana Village, North Carolina.

Roof of Eastern America

Business sessions must, of course, be held at this first postwar meeting of ambulating nature lovers representing all six districts into which the trail route is divided. When parleys are done, the real business of rambling along the ridgepole of eastern America will begin.

For within the 720 square miles of Great Smokies park are 71 of the highest, the most variegated, and most primeval miles of the long Appalachian Trail (illustration, next page). The trail virtually defines as many miles of the Tennessee-North Carolina border, since it runs along the crest of the boundary-forming ridge.

Fifty-three of the highest peaks in the Appalachians are in the Great Smokies, shrouded in the blue mist that gives the region its name. Sixteen of them tower above 6,000 feet. The park thus holds the greatest mountain mass east of South Dakota's Black Hills.

Conferees will do most of their tramping along the western half of the Appalachian Trail, within the park. Well-spaced trail-side shelters accommodate several sleepers, have fireplaces in front and cool spring water near by. Elsewhere in the area, bridle and foot trails exceed 600 miles in length. An automobile skyway climbs to 6,311 feet on Clingmans Dome. This rounded peak towers 6,642 feet and is the highest point on the Appalachian Trail. From its high observation tower, the observer sees shadow-mottled forests in ever-changing patterns rolling endlessly to the distant horizons.

Ready-made Resort Town

On the southeast edge of the park, descendants of the few Cherokee Indians who evaded the wholesale transfer of their tribe to Oklahoma in 1836 carry on with tribal customs, even to bow and arrow and blowgun. On their large reservation, they do a thriving business in baskets and handicraft with park visitors.

Fontana Village (rhymes with Montana), four miles south of the park, is 10 miles from Deals Gap, the Appalachian Trail's southwestern gate to the park. It lies 70 miles south of Knoxville, 95 miles southwest of Asheville.

A decade ago, Fontana didn't exist. It was built at varying levels on the mountainside above the site for Fontana Dam to accommodate 5,000

An expedition led by the director of the Washington zoo and sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution, once brought back alive nearly 900 animals, birds, and reptiles.

Included in the haul were almost as many fascinating stories. At one time, an excited native rushed into the expedition's base in Sumatra bearing a "rare" find. It turned out to be an escaped American opossum, one of the goodwill gifts brought along by the expedition.

NOTE: Lands where animals for zoos and circuses are found may be located on the Society's World Map.

For additional information, see "The Wonder City That Moves by Night," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1948; "Australia's Patchwork Creature, the Platypus," August, 1939;* and "Around the World for Animals," June, 1938.

MAYNARD OWEN WILLIAMS

A SUMATRA TIGER BARES FANGS AND SNARLS AT BARS THAT FENCE HIM IN FROM FREEDOM

This captive tiger does not seem to agree with the poet's statement to the effect that iron bars do not make a cage. If plans for barless pits are carried out at Washington's National Zoological Park, this one-time lord of the jungle will safely view an unstriped world across deep, grassy ditches. Somewhat smaller than the more famous Bengal tiger, the wild striped "cat" from Sumatra is just as fierce.

Water-Soaked Scientists "Lose" Six Centuries

A group of American scientists in Burma recently "lost" 638 years and got literally all wet in the process. They also lost for three days the services of Burmese working on the Mergui camp site from which they will study the May 8-9 eclipse for the National Geographic Society.

It was all because of "Tagoo"—the traditional water festival that ushers in the Burmese New Year each April. And the New Year just ushered in is 1310.

The main idea during Tagoo is to celebrate the New Year's arrival by dousing everyone with water, and you're the man no one loves if you don't get doused yourself. Pots, cups, other utensils, and bamboo squirt guns are used to spread the liquid cheer. The lowliest clerk may pour water down his boss's neck with impunity.

Mr. E. A. Halbach, Milwaukee (Wisconsin) astronomer who heads the eclipse expedition, reports that he and other American members of his party have been repeatedly drenched. Like so many customs characterizing festivals over the world, the practice of water throwing had a religious origin.

workers constructing that important link in the TVA chain of flood-control and electric-power projects.

When the workers moved out on completion of the three-year project, they left not only the village but the tallest dam in the east and its 30-mile-long lake on the Little Tennessee River. They had added the 16 square miles of Fontana Reservoir to the natural scenic beauties of the region. Plans now afoot will add the entire north shore of the lake to the adjacent national park.

NOTE: The Appalachian Trail may be traced on the Society's maps of the Southeastern United States and Northeastern United States.

For additional information, see "Rambling Around the Roof of Eastern America," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for August, 1938.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, November 11, 1946, "Great Smokies, Roof Top of Eastern America."

CARLOS C. CAMPBELL

FROM MAINE TO GEORGIA, DIAMOND-SHAPED "A.T." SIGNS MARK A 2,050-MILE UPLAND TRAIL

Here a Great Smoky Mountains National Park ranger nails up a new marker near Charlies Bunion, a 5,375-foot peak named for a former guide's sore toe. Wherever possible, the Appalachian Trail follows the very crest of ranges and it often goes out of its way to surmount peaks. Its greatest elevation is Clingmans Dome, 6,642 feet high, on the border between North Carolina and Tennessee.